United Nations A/ES-10/76–S/2001/372

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
17 April 2001

Original: English

General Assembly
Tenth emergency special session
Agenda item 5
Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-sixth year

Identical letters dated 17 April 2001 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

For several hours throughout last night and into today, Israeli occupying forces used helicopter gunships, tanks and gunboats to launch air, ground and sea attacks against several locations in Gaza City and throughout the Gaza Strip. At least one person was killed and 50 people injured as a result of this shelling. In addition, vast physical destruction was caused, and terror gripped the thousands of Palestinian civilians in the targeted areas.

Moreover, today, Israeli occupying forces moved tanks, troops and army bulldozers well into area under full Palestinian control near the town of Beit Hanoun in the Gaza Strip. Several Israeli spokesmen indicated that this military seizure was likely to continue. At the same time, Israeli tanks and troops were used to carve the Gaza Strip into three parts, isolated from one another.

Also today, Israeli snipers shot dead a 15-year-old Palestinian boy with a live bullet to his heart near the crossing point between Gaza and Israel at a time when no clashes were occurring. In the West Bank yesterday, Israeli troops shot another Palestinian teenager, an 18-year-old boy in the town of Tulkarem.

These mounting criminal actions by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory represent a continuation and dangerous escalation of the bloody Israeli military campaign of aggression being waged against the Palestinian people since 28 September 2000. Mr. Ariel Sharon and his Government are fully responsible for the war crimes and State terrorism being committed against the Palestinian civilian population under occupation as well as all the ensuing results and consequences.

In follow-up to my previous letter to you on this very grave and serious matter, dated 29 September 2000 to 11 April 2001 (A/55/432-S/2000/921; A/55/437-S/2000/930; A/55/450-S/2000/957; A/55/466-S/2000/971; A/55/474-S/2000/984; A/55/490-S/2000/993; A/ES-10/39-S/2000/1015; A/ES-10/40-S/2000/1025;

01-33592 (E) 170401

A/ES-10/42-S/2000/1068; A/ES/-10/43-S/2000/1078; A/ES-10/44-S/2000/1093; A/ES-10/45-S/2000/1104; A/ES-10/46-S/2000/1107; A/ES-10/47-S/2000/1116; A/ES-10/48-S/2000/1129; A/ES-10/49-S/2000/1154; A/ES-10/50-S/2000/1173; A/ES-10/51-S/2000/1185; A/ES-10/52-S/2000/1206; A/ES-10/53-S/2000/1247; A/ES-10/54-S/2001/7; A/ES-10/55-S/2001/33; A/ES-10/56-S/2001/50; A/ES-10/57-S/2001/101; A/ES-10/58-S/2001/131; A/ES-10/59-S/2001/156; A/ES-10/60-S/2001/175; A/ES-10/61-S/2001/189; A/ES-10/64-S/2001/209; A/ES-10/65-S/2001/226; A/ES-10/66-S/2001/239; A/ES-10/67-S/2001/255; A/ES-10/68-S/2001/284, A/ES-10/69-S/2001/295; A/ES-10/70-S/2001/304; A/ES-10/71-S/2001/314; A/ES-10/72-S/2001/332; A/ES-10/75-S/2001/352), it is my deep regret to inform you that, since my last letter, seven more Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli occupying forces. (The names of the martyrs are contained in the annex to this letter.) These killings bring the total number of Palestinian martyrs since the start of this Israeli aggression on 28 September 2000 to 415 people, including children, women and men. As noted above, injuries among Palestinian civilians also continue to rise as a result of the actions and excessive use of force by the soldiers of the Israeli occupying army.

The Security Council, as the organ responsible for the maintenance of peace and security on behalf of the international community, is obligated to intervene in the escalating crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem. Action must be taken to bring an end to the Israeli military campaign and provide protection for the Palestinian people living under occupation. The Council cannot allow itself to remain paralysed as it watches this ongoing tragedy which threatens to endanger the whole region and thus directly endanger international peace and security.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations

Annex

Names of martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem[a] (Thursday, 12 April, through Tuesday, 17 April 2001)

Thursday, 12 April 2001

1. Ha'aed Roushdi Sobin
2. Fadi Attallah Amer
3. Shawkat Saadi Al-Alamah (14 years old)

Saturday, 14 April 2001

1. Mohammed Yasseen Nasar

Monday, 16 April 2001

1. Basel Rafiq Zahran (18 years old)

Tuesday, 17 April 2001

1. Mohammed Ramadan Al-Masri
2. Hamza Obeid (15 years old)

[a] Total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 = 415.